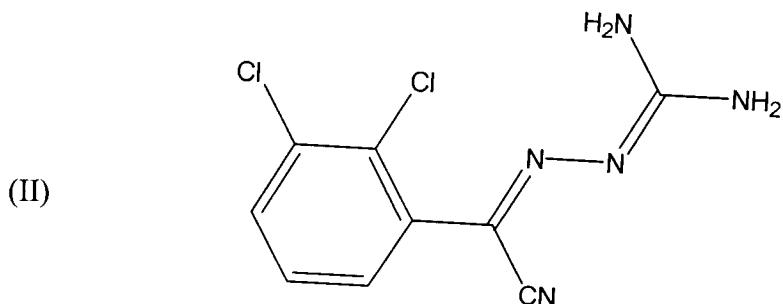


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing the intermediate 2-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-2-(aminoguanidine)acetonitrile, of formula (II):



which comprises the reaction of 2,3-dichlorobenzoyl cyanide with aminoguanidine bicarbonate, wherein it is carried out in non-aqueous medium in the presence of methanesulphonic acid as the only reaction medium; and wherein once the reaction has finished, the process further comprises the steps of:

- i) adding water;
- ii) adjusting the pH of the medium to a pH higher than the pKa of hydrogen cyanide; and
- iii) isolating intermediate of formula (II).

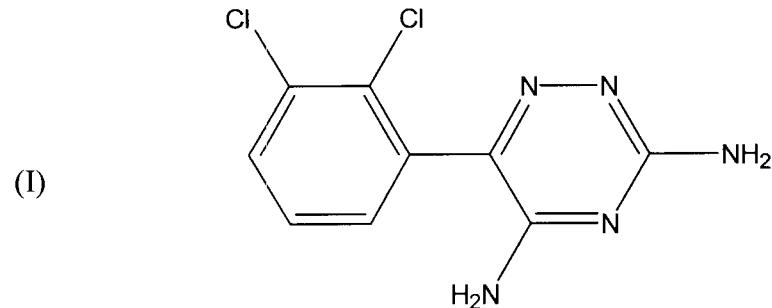
2. (Previously Presented) Process according to Claim 1, wherein said reaction is carried out within a temperature range of 20 to 80 °C.

3. (Previously Presented) Process according to Claim 2, wherein said reaction is carried out within a temperature range of 30 to 60 °C.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1 [[4]], wherein in ii), said adjustment of the pH is carried out by adding a sodium hydroxide solution.

6. (Currently Amended) Process for preparing the 3,5-diamino-6-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-1,2,4-triazine, of formula (I):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises the following steps:

- a) preparation of the intermediate 2-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-2-(aminoguanidine)acetonitrile, of formula (II), according to claim 1;
- b) cyclisation of said intermediate of formula (II) in an aliphatic alcohol or in an aliphatic alcohol/water solution under reflux; and, if desired, obtaining a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 6, wherein said aliphatic alcohol used in step b) may be chosen from between ethanol and isopropanol.